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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/577,094	10/13/2006	Dietmar Krautwurst	102790-211 (D30126 US)	4405
27389 7590 10/05/2009 NORRIS, MCLAUGHLIN & MARCUS 875 THIRD AVE 18TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022			EXAMINER WEGERT, SANDRA L	
			ART UNIT 1646	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/05/2009	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/577,094	Applicant(s) KRAUTWURST ET AL.	
	Examiner SANDRA WEGERT	Art Unit 1646	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23, 26 and 27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-4, 6 and 12-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 7-11, 26 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 April 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/19/06, 5/24/06, 10/13/06, 10/17/06, 12/13/06, 1/23/07</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

Status of Application, Amendments, and/or Claims

Claims 1-23, 26 and 27 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 have been amended. Claims 24 and 25 are cancelled. The Information Disclosure Statements, sent 19 May 2006, 24 May 2006, 13 October 2006, 17 October 2006, 13 December 2006 and 23 January 2007 have been entered into the record. Applicants' election of Invention IV, claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-11 with the species *olfactory receptors* and *HeLa-Cx43/CNGA2/G-alpha-olf*, in the response of 22 June 2009, is acknowledged. In addition, newly-added claims 26 and 27 read on the elected invention and will be examined as well.

Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)). Claims 2-4, 6 and 12-23 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected Invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

The restriction requirement is deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 1, 5, 7-11, 26 and 27 are being examined in the instant Office action.

Informalities

Specification

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Figures

The drawings are objected to for the following reasons: Figure 9 is referred to in the specification as a schematic of signaling pathways, when the figure appears to show data on fluorescent Ca^{2+} -imaging. In addition, there is no part "A", as described in the Brief Description.

Likewise, Figure 10 appears to be a schematic of cellular signaling, without parts "A" and "B" as described in the brief description.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and **appropriate changes made to the Brief Description** of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections/Objections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112- second paragraph

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 5, 7-10, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 5 and 8 refer to "recombinant specific" receptors. It is not clear what is meant by "recombinant specific" or what distinguishes a "recombinant specific" G-protein coupled receptor from that which is not "recombinant specific". Furthermore, claim 8 refers to a "potential recombinant specific G protein-coupled receptor". In that case, the G-protein-coupled receptor is not even required to be present or to be "recombinant specific". However, the independent claim 1 clearly requires a recombinant specific G protein-coupled receptor to be in the system. The metes and bounds of the claim, therefore, cannot be determined.

Claim 1 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, -second paragraph, for the phrase "the olfactory receptors" in line 12. There is no antecedent basis for the article "the" when referring to olfactory receptors, since they had previously only been mentioned as "a [] G protein-coupled receptor". Thus, there is no proper antecedence for the above phrase in the claim.

Claims 7, 9, 26 and 27 are also included in this rejection because they are ultimately dependent from the specifically-mentioned claims without resolving the

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indefiniteness issue belonging thereto.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 101, Product of Nature

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1, 5, 7-10, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims read on a product of nature in that the claimed recombinant cell is not “isolated.” For example, the claims encompass cells that have not been removed from the human or animal. In the absence of the hand of man, the naturally occurring products are considered non-statutory subject matter. See *Diamond v. Chakrabarty*, 447 U.S. 303, 206 USPQ 193 (1980). The claims should be amended to indicate the hand of the inventor, e.g., by insertion of “isolated” or “purified”. See MPEP 2105.

Deposit Information

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The

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invention appears to employ novel nucleic acid molecules (i.e., clone: DSM ACC2649).

Since the nucleic acid molecules are essential to the claimed invention they must be obtainable by a repeatable method set forth in the specification or otherwise readily available to the public. If the nucleic acid molecules are not so obtainable or available, the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 may be satisfied by a deposit of the nucleic acid molecules.

It is not clear from the disclosure that deposit of DSM ACC2649 meets all the criteria set forth in MPEP 608/01 (p)(C), items 1-3, such as whether the depository is recognized and approved by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) (see MPEP § 2405).

The Assurance of compliance may be in the form of a declaration or averment under oath. A suggested format for such a declaration or averment is outlined below:

SUGGESTION FOR DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

A declaration by applicant, assignee, or applicant's agent identifying a deposit of biological material and averring the following may be sufficient to overcome an objection and rejection based on a lack of availability of biological material.

1. Identifies declarant.
2. States that a deposit of the material has been made in a depository affording permanence of the deposit and ready accessibility thereto by the public if a patent is granted. The depository is to be identified by name and address.
3. States that the deposited material has been accorded a specific (recited) accession number.

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4. States that all restrictions on the availability to the public of the material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent.

5. States that the material has been deposited under conditions that ensure that access to the material will be available during the pendency of the patent application to one determined by the Commissioner to be entitled thereto under 35 CFR 1.14 and 35 USC 122.

6. States that the deposited material will be stored with all care necessary to keep it viable and uncontaminated for a period of at least five years after the most recent request for the furnishing of a sample of the deposited microorganism, and in any case at least thirty (30) years after the date of a deposit or for the enforceable life of the patent, whichever is longer.

7. Acknowledges the duty to replace the deposit should the depository be unable to furnish a sample when requested due to the condition of the deposit.

8. That he/she declares further that all statements made therein of his/her own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the instant patent application or any patent issuing thereon.

As a possible means of completing the record, applicants' representative may submit a copy of the deposit receipt.

Conclusion: Claims 1, 5, 7-11, 26 and 27 are rejected for the reasons recited above.

Advisory information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sandra Wegert whose telephone number is (571) 272-0895. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Eastern Time). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Gary Nickol, can be reached at (571) 272-0835.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (in USA or CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/SLW/

28 September 2009

/Dong Jiang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1646